

WASHINGTON, DC – Later today, the U.S. House is expected pass and send to the President's desk for signing the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism an Education Act of 2009 (GIVE Act), a bill to dramatically expand national service opportunities and help Americans play a role in the economic recovery. Wisconsin Congresswoman Gwen Moore, a former VISTA volunteer of the Decade 1976-1986, released the following statement regarding the bill:

"We will either find a way, or make one. That was the motto when I was sworn into Volunteers in Service to America in the 1970's, and it became my personal mantra. At an early age I personally experienced the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with volunteering. When I decided to take a more active role in my Milwaukee community I not only made a commitment to those in my community; I made a commitment to myself because in my service I realized I was making a greater investment to my community.

"The fact that many Americans- from children to seniors- are committed to helping their community is a testament to Americans values. The GIVE Act will create 175,000 new service opportunities dramatically increasing the number of volunteers nationwide. I am glad that this bill will ensure people who volunteer with our nation's volunteer corps will receive real investments in their education because if volunteers are able to invest in their community then we should be able to invest in the volunteers.

"Too many people believe that where you start out dictates where you end up. That did not happen to me, and it should not happen to anyone. Organizations like VISTA made the difference for me and the community where I grew up and the GIVE Act will afford that same opportunity to the next generation of Americans."

Congresswoman Gwen Moore began her lifetime of service after joining VISTA to help her neighborhood in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Prior to her life as a public servant, Rep. Moore's volunteerism led her to establish and organize a financial empowerment initiative in her community. Rep. Moore established the Cream City Community Development Credit Union- which is now part of First Service Credit Union- to offer basic banking and loans for projects that created jobs, cultivated local businesses, and contributed to the development of Milwaukee's inner city.

Click [here](#) to read more about Rep. Moore's history of volunteerism.

###